

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 23, 32, 33, 57, 60, 63, and 68 have been allowed.

Applicants also appreciate that Examiner's indication that dependent Claim 69 contains allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if amended into independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 69 into independent form to include the features of associated base Claim 61. There were no associated intervening claims between Claims 69 and 61. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request an indication of the allowance of Claim 69

Claims 34, 35, 37-39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,057,896 to Rho et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Rho et al. reference fails to disclose all of the claimed features of the present invention. More specifically, the Rho et al. reference fails to disclose a liquid crystal display device that includes, *inter alia*, first pixel regions, which oppose color filters of a first color, and in which a final protection film is interposed between the pixel electrodes and the transparent substrate, and second pixel regions, which oppose color filters of a second color, and in which the final protection film is not interposed between the pixel electrodes and the transparent substrate, as defined in independent Claim 34. In addition, with regard to independent Claim 38, Applicants respectfully submit that the Rho et al. reference fails to disclose a liquid crystal display device that includes, *inter alia*,

first pixel regions, which oppose color filters of a first color, and second pixel regions, which oppose color filters of a second color, and wherein a thickness of the final protection film is different between the first pixel regions and the second pixel regions.

In contrast, the Rho et al. reference fails to disclose the configurations of Claims 34 and 38 in which, *inter alia*, the first and second pixel regions are defined as being opposed to color filters of different colors. More specifically, Figure 3 of the Rho et al. reference does not include the color filter substrate, so there is no disclosure regarding the use of color filters of different colors for the different pixel regions in this figure. Further, although Figure 13 of the Rho et al. reference does disclose the use of a color filter (indicated with reference number 160), there is no disclosure of the configurations of Claims 34 and 38 in which the final protection film (which the Examiner equated with passivation film 100) is varied depending on whether the color filter is of a first color or of a second color. More specifically, with regard to independent Claim 34, Figure 13 of the Rho et al. reference does not show that passivation film 100 is interposed between pixel electrodes and the substrate in a first pixel region opposing a color filter of a first color and that passivation film 100 is lacking between the pixel electrodes and the substrate in a second pixel region opposing a color filter of a second color. Additionally, with regard to independent Claim 38, Figure 13 of the Rho et al. reference does not show that passivation film layer 100 in a first pixel region opposing a color filter of a first color is of a different thickness than passivation film layer 100 in a second pixel region opposing a color filter of a second color. Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claims 34 and 38 are not disclosed in the Rho et al. reference,

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection of independent Claims 34 and 38 and associated dependent Claims 35, 37, 39 and 41.

Claims 59, 61 and 65-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,067,144 to Murouchi. Claims 59, 61, 65 and 67 have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claim 66, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the Murouchi reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed “projections having a height lower than the second spacers and dividing alignment of the liquid crystal,” as defined in independent Claim 66. Even assuming *arguendo* that Applicants accepted the Examiner’s assertions that Figure 3 of the Murouchi reference included the claimed first spacers in the form of spacers 4a/4b and the claimed second spacers in the form of spacers 5a/5b, the Examiner has not shown any features that correspond to the claimed “projections having a height lower than the second spacers and dividing alignment of the liquid crystal,” as defined in Claim 66. Accordingly, as all of the features of Claim 66 are not disclosed in the Murouchi reference, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(e) rejection.

Claims 36 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Rho et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

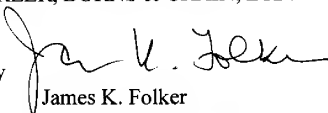
Claims 36 and 40 depend from either independent Claim 34 or from independent Claim 38, and therefore include all of the features of their associated base claim,

plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this §103 rejection be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claims 34 and 38, and also because the Rho et al. reference does not provide any suggestion to remedy the deficiencies noted above.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that any outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,
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